

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method for the allocation of seats to customers, usable with a computerized reservation system, comprising:

- assignment, in a database, to each customer, of data relative to placement criteria;

- assignment to each placement criterion, of an attribute weight;

- determination by a processor of a satisfaction value of the customers for each seat as a function of agreement with the placement criteria, the satisfaction value being a particular numerical amount resulting from a specific mathematical operation;

- assignment, in a database, to each customer, of a priority level; and

- assignment of seats to all the customers by allocation with an allocation server, to each customer, by decreasing order of level of priority, of the available seat having the maximum satisfaction value.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the fact that the steps of allocation are repeated upon each new reservation or cancellation of a seat.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising upon all the available seats being assigned, placing remaining customers on a waiting list.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein there is assigned to each seat at least one attribute indicating inclusion in group of available seats, for the definition of the seats available for allocation.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein there is excluded from the group of available seats, seats whose reservation is confirmed by the customer.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein for customers whose seat has a confirmed reservation, there is carried out a search procedure for a possible better seat by the steps of allocation.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the placement criteria comprise data as to zone or location of the seats desired by the customer.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the placement criteria comprise a criterion of adjacency of the customer to at least one other customer.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein there is assigned to each placement criterion an attribute defining it either as mandatory or as preferred.

30. (cancelled)